

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
Urban Sanitary District
OF
NEWPORT,
ISLE OF WIGHT,
For the Year 1895.

BY
WILLIAM F. FOSTER, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE BOROUGH.

Isle of Wight:


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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

OF NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of the
Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the following Report on the sanitary condition of your District, for the year 1895, I must first congratulate you on a return to your normal sanitary state, as compared with the anxious experience you have passed through in the previous year. I am able to report a gradual improvement in your sanitary condition, until now I find the Borough to be entirely free from all forms of infectious disease.

The usual tabular statements will accompany the Report, comprising the detail of sickness and deaths; also one of the notification of sickness, which Act was adopted in its entirety since January 9th.

POPULATION.—The estimated population at the end of 1894 was 10,547. The increase of births over deaths up to Midsummer number 60, bringing the actual population up to 10,607. In previous years the population was calculated up to December 31st, but as set forth in the tabular statement marked B I have and will in future enumerate the same up to the middle of the year.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—The births registered for the year were 277, or 26·02 per 1000; of these 152 males and 125 females, being 2 more than were born in the previous year.

The deaths registered as occurring in the district were 163, as against :

Deaths in 1892	...	...	196
„ 1893	...	...	131
„ 1894	...	...	172

—The mortality being 15·36 per 1000, the death-rate is the lowest experienced for the last four years, excepting 1893, which proved an unusually healthy year.

The 163 deaths were at the following ages:

Deaths under 1 year ... 33, or 3·11 per 1000

Deaths over 1 year and under 5 ... 8 „ 75 „

„ 5 „ „ 15 ... 7 „ 65 „

„ 15 „ „ 25 ... 7 „ 65 „

„ 25 „ „ 65 ... 55 „ 5·18 „

„ 65 and upwards ... 53 „ 4·99 „

Fifty-three persons, or 4·99 per 1000, were 65 and upwards; of these 31 died between 70 and 80 years of age and 13 between 80 and 90.

The total number of deaths due to preventible disease were 11; of these 8 were due to enteric fever, 1 puerperal, and 2 diphtheria, giving a mortality of preventible diseases as 1·03 per 1000, assuming the population at 10,607.

The mortality for the various months was as follows :

	No. of Deaths.	Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Diphtheria.
January	... 16	2	1	...
February	... 19	...	...	...
March	... 27	...	...	...
April	... 12	...	...	...
May	... 8	...	...	...
June	... 13	2	...	1
July	... 8	1	...	...
August	... 5	...	...	...
September	... 13	1	...	...
October	... 15	1	...	...
November	... 13	1	...	1
December	... 14	...	...	...

—The two most fatal months being February and March, in which the deaths were 19 and 27 respectively. Influenza was especially prevalent in March. Of the 163 deaths from all causes, 2 occurred from diphtheria; 8 from enteric fever, against 37 last year; diarrhoea, 4 cases, all in infants; phthisis 16, against 15 last year; 29 other pulmonary affections; 21 cardiac; 3 deaths the result of violence; cancer 9, against 7 last year; no death to either whooping cough, measles, or scarlet fever.

NOTIFICATION DISEASES.—This Act was adopted in its entirety January 9th of this year. In 1894 enteric cases only were notified, and that from the 7th of November. I am therefore unable to compare the number of cases of general sickness with those of the previous year, but give only the cases of the various diseases notified in 1895.

	1894.	1895.
Typhoid, Nov. 7th to Dec. 31st...	“ 337 ”	48
Diphtheria	...	19
Scarlet fever	...	7
Erysipelas	...	7
Continued and relapsing fever	...	10

In the following months the cases of typhoid were notified :

January	... 7 cases	February	... 1
March	... 1 „	June	... 8
July	... 13 „	August	... 1
September	... 9 „	October	... 7
November	... 1 „		

From November 7th to December 31st, 1894, 337 cases were notified, and for the whole of 1895 only 48 cases, the last being November 19th.

VISITS AND INSPECTION OF PREMISES.—I find by my report book about 150 premises were visited, some in company with Inspector Walden; others to inspect houses in which cases of infectious sickness were notified, which was done in every instance; also in many cases to advise whether a nuisance existed, which was then duly reported to the Sanitary Committee.

PROSECUTIONS.—There were two during the year, one for neglect of children, the other for keeping house in a dirty and insanitary condition. A conviction followed in each case.

The following are particulars connected with preventible diseases :

TYPHOID.—In January you were left with many cases of the 1894 epidemic, in various stages of the sickness. The fever then gradually subsided, the last case being notified in March. In June and July there was a fresh accession of the epidemic, again in September and October, since which no new cases have occurred excepting 1 on the 19th November, so you may now consider yourselves free. Of the 48 cases there were 8 deaths :

January 5th, A.S., aged 14 years, died of the disease. No assignable cause. Bell trap in the yard; on my visit found the covering removed.

January 9th, F.B., 51 years. Sanitary condition of the premises not good; closet indoors unsatisfactory. Patient succumbed after two months' illness.

June 22nd, J.S.M., 30 years. No insanitary surrounding. Man worked at the cement works, Dodnor.

June 30th, A.S., 20 years. This patient had recently returned from drill at Aldershot, but had felt somewhat out of health previous to leaving the Island. Drains on premises unsatisfactory.

July 14th, E.S., 38 years. These premises proved to be in a very unsatisfactory state as to drainage; they have now been put into thorough repair, under the supervision of the sanitary inspector.

September 16th, J.S., 26 years. Nothing insanitary about the premises. This patient has been working at the Asylum.

October 8th, A.S.U., 18 years. There were cases in the adjoining house. Water obtained from a well common to both premises. The water did not prove unwholesome.

November 25th, W.F.R., 6 years. The drains at the back of the house were not satisfactory, but have since been repaired.

The milk supply in nearly all the cases was from different sources. Water mostly Carisbrooke.

SCARLET FEVER.—Seven cases were notified during the year. One family, in which there were 2 cases, developed the affection the day following their return from Sandown. The other 5 cases appeared in various quarters of the district, having no communication with each other.

DIPHTHERIA—has been somewhat prevalent in the District, there being 19 cases notified, 2 of which proved fatal:

June 15th, D.K., 7 years. The sanitary surroundings were bad, drains blocked, closet a vault. Connection with sewer has now been made and other insanitary conditions remedied.

December 18th, F.A.D., 2 years. Here the insanitary conditions were very evident.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—There has been no case of measles, and only a few cases of whooping cough have come to my knowledge.

DIARRHŒA.—The District has again been exceptionally free from diarrhœa. There were 4 deaths from this cause, being all in children under 5 years of age.

INFLUENZA.—This affection was very prevalent in February, causing several deaths by its sequelæ of pneumonia and bronchitis.

VIOLENT AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.—Three deaths were the result of accidents, inquests being held in every case.

CANCER—occasioned 9 deaths, as against 7 in the previous year.

In January a Local Government inquiry was held to enable your Authority to procure a loan for completing the system of treating the sewage by filtration and chemical treatment, also for obtaining water from an undoubtedly pure source. The outfall works for the treatment of sewage, of which the foundation stone was laid by the ex-Mayor, Francis Pittis, Esq., on November 8th, is being rapidly constructed and probably will be completed about the middle of this year.

WATER SUPPLY.—The puddled wall round the wells has so far proved a success, as evidenced by an analysis, both chemical and bacteriological, by Professors Crookshank and Thomson, in July. They report on five samples, taken from different parts of the District, that they may be considered of good drinking quality and fit for domestic use; also there are no organisms indicating sewage contamination, and in not any of the samples were typhoid bacilli detected. The small amount of free ammonia found in the waters may be taken to indicate that the organic growth is small. Nevertheless on January 19th the Council instructed Mr. Baldwin Latham to make a survey in order to find a site for procuring a new supply. Later in the month a memorial was presented to the Town Council signed by 145 burgesses, urging the necessity of obtaining a supply from a more reliable source.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.—On the 25th March Mr. Walden was appointed Inspector of Nuisances for the District. There being so great an arrear of work, it has been found impossible to make a systematic inspection, his time being occupied by attending to work in progress, likewise to many other urgent cases. As soon as the present arrears

are dealt with, attention will be given to other detail. I am convinced your Authority will have no reason to regret the appointment of an officer to give his whole attention to this important work, for during the period the inspector has been in office there undoubtedly has been an appreciable improvement in the sanitary condition of the Borough, owing to the removal of nuisances. Mr. Walden has proved his efficiency, bringing to bear a large experience coupled with energetic attention.

SANITARY CERTIFICATES.—October the 11th your committee sanctioned the granting of sanitary certificates to all applicants who satisfied the Medical Officer and Inspector of Nuisances as to their premises being in a sanitary state. As yet there has been only one certificate applied for, which was granted October 28th.

BAKE-HOUSES.—Fifteen were found thoroughly lime-washed and clean. Eleven required lime-washing; they have now all been done and can be reported as satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is herewith appended.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM F. FOSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 13th, 1896.

*To the Sanitary Committee of the Town Council of the
Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

January, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you the following brief account of work done by me from January, inclusive, until the arrival of Mr. Walden, Inspector of Nuisances, in March, 1895.

During the above period 24 notices were served and 55 letters written on various sanitary matters. The whole of the requirements of these notices have been complied with, either at the time or within a reasonable time after.

The 24 notices were as under :

8 direct connection of service pipe with pan of closet.

4 direct connection of sinks with house drain.

1 privy in a filthy condition.

11 defective drains.

Twenty-two visits were made to slaughter-houses and 2 were reported as being kept in a dirty condition, and on letters being written and on the premises being revisited were found in an improved condition.

In 4 cases premises were entered by order of the Committee for ascertaining the causes of nuisances, and in each case the nuisances were found to be of a serious nature, and on notices being served the requirements of the Committee were complied with.

In addition many visits were also paid to the milk-shops and dairies and lodging-houses, but no defects of a serious nature were found save that Mr. Barber's lodging-house in East Street, from its age and many other inconveniences of arrangement, was deemed to be at that time not suitable for the purpose of a lodging-house.

Mr. Atkey, your Assistant Inspector, terminated his appointment on January 12th, 1895.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

F. W. B. WATERWORTH,

Borough Surveyor.

*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of the
Borough of Newport, I.W.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my first Report of the works carried out in the sanitary department from the date of my appointment as your Sanitary Inspector, viz., March 25th to December 31st, 1895.

The fact of my coming here as a perfect stranger necessitated my devoting almost the whole of the first month to making myself acquainted with the District and people, the necessary office arrangements, and other routine work; also to arrange the whole work of my department into something like methodical shape.

On settling down to work I soon found both from my own inspections and the nature of the complaints received that the domestic drainage was the first matter to which I should have to direct my special attention, and this indeed has proved to be a work necessitating persistent searching and careful watching to prevent in many cases the remedy being worse than the disease.

The work of getting the domestic drainage into anything like a satisfactory condition must be a work of time and great care, because from the crowded state of many buildings in some of the older streets, and the complicated way in which the drains are laid and connected, render it perfectly useless to replace the old and defective fittings by modern appliances until there are good and satisfactory drains underneath, and more especially so as the majority of the drains have to pass under the houses to be connected to the main sewers in the streets.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 18 licensed slaughter-houses in the District, situated as follows:

- 10 in Scarrots Lane.
- 1 „ Cross Street.
- 1 „ Carisbrooke Road.
- 1 „ Chain Lane.
- 1 „ South Street.

- 1 in Cockram's Yard.
- 1 „ Pyle Street.
- 1 „ Orchard Street.
- 1 „ Upper St. James's Street.

The 2 latter have not been used as slaughter-houses for a considerable time.

Eight are used for the slaughtering of swine only.

I have made frequent inspection of these slaughter-houses and as a rule have found them clean and the drains in working order. The proprietors have at all times been willing to attend to any suggestions I had to make, but from their crowded surroundings and structural defects most of these premises are very far from being satisfactory.

There has been 1 new license granted during the year and two licenses renewed.

MILKSHOPS AND DAIRIES.

Under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885 there are 17 dairymen and 4 purveyors of milk registered in the Borough.

All these premises have been under my inspection from time to time, and various alterations have been made to improve their sanitary condition and ventilation. They are, as a rule, kept clean, and in accordance with the regulations so far as their structural condition will permit.

There are also 9 dairymen registered whose dairies are situated outside, but who retail their milk to consumers within the Borough.

PIGSTIES.

Many complaints have been received of the nuisance arising from the keeping of swine, and especially in those localities where large numbers of pigs are kept, sometimes to the extent of 30 or 40 together in the midst of a crowded neighbourhood, and the stench from these premises is at times most offensive.

I have done my best to attend to these complaints and get the nuisance abated, but can never hope to remove this blot on the sanitary reputation of the Borough until you make a by-law prohibiting swine from being kept within a suitable distance from any dwelling-house.

SCHOOLS.

There are 6 public and about twice that number of private schools in the Borough. I have made an inspection

of the sanitary arrangements of 3 public and 4 private schools, and found them working satisfactorily.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are 3 registered common lodging-houses in the Borough. Inspection has been made from time to time, and the regulations as to cleanliness and sanitary condition have been carried out as well as their structural condition would permit, but two of them are most unsuitable buildings for this purpose.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION OF ROOMS, &c.

Every house where a case of infectious disease has been notified has been inspected, and where found necessary the defective sanitary arrangements have been rectified. I have also disinfected 21 rooms with sulphur dioxide and many others have been fumigated by the occupiers under my directions. No case has arisen necessitating the destruction of bedding, &c.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

In only 3 instances has there been occasion to seek magisterial aid—one case for occupying a filthy and unwholesome dwelling and two for refusing or neglecting to comply with the orders of the Local Sanitary Authority. In each case a conviction was obtained and orders made to carry out the works and pay the costs of prosecution.

I here append a detailed list of the number of notices served and works carried out :

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	362
„ reports made on unsanitary premises	...	...	...	31
„ preliminary notices served to abate nuisances	...	...	...	138
„ statutory	„	„	„	25
„ written complaints received	...	...	...	51
„ notices not complied with on December 31st,	...	...	...	...
1895	...	...	...	8

DETAILED LIST OF WORKS CARRIED OUT.

Drains tested with the smoke test	...	...	...	53
Old drains condemned	...	...	...	65
New drains laid	...	...	...	75

Drains cleared from obstruction	...	...	98
Leaky drains made sound	...	...	114
Drains disconnected from the sewer by ventilating syphons	..	...	49
Premises completely re-drained	...	...	34
Cesspools condemned and filled up	...	...	19
New connections of drains with sewers	...	.	35
Inspection chambers built	...	...	24
Brick drains replaced by glazed stoneware pipe drains	...	...	19
Unglazed tile drains replaced by stoneware pipe drains	...	...	45
Undrained houses provided with drains	...	...	5
Drains ventilated by 4in. shafts	...	...	36
Stoneware gully traps fixed	...	...	243
Bell traps removed	...	...	234
Stoneware sink troughs provided	...	...	18
Stables drained	...	...	8
Trapped pits provided for yards and stable drains	...	...	12
Objectionable syphons removed from drains	...	...	24
Dean's grease pits fixed	...	...	12
Yard floors made good	...	...	67
Waste pipes from sinks disconnected from the drain	...	...	81
Gully traps removed from inside the house and fixed in the open air	...	...	12
Mason's pits replaced by gully traps	...	...	42
New w.c.'s built	...	...	8
"Container" w.c. apparatuses condemned and removed	...	...	22
"Container" w.c. apparatuses burnt out and replaced	...	...	3
W.C.'s provided with an effectual flush of water	...	...	11
"Washdown" w.c.'s fixed	...	...	37
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	47
New hopper basins and traps provided to w.c.'s	...	...	89
Old basins cleansed	...	...	67
Defective traps under w.c.'s removed and replaced	...	...	55
Soil pipes removed from inside the house, and fixed on outside walls, and ventilated	...	...	22
Offensive w.c.'s lime-washed	...	...	52
W.C.'s ventilated	...	...	51
Offensive urinals repaired	...	...	6
Lavatory waste pipes disconnected from the drain	...	...	12
Bath wastes disconnected from the drain	...	...	5
Rain-water stack pipes disconnected from the drain	...	...	94

New cesspools built	...	...	...	1
Ventilating shafts from drains carried to a safe height	...	...	...	18
Leaking and defective water taps replaced by new ones	..	...	...	43
Leaking taps repaired and made sound	...	...	...	76
Defective spouting repaired	...	...	...	24
Leaking and broken water pipes repaired	...	...	...	15
W.C.'s supplied with water for flushing purposes	...	...	...	47
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	13
Nuisances arising from dead animals under floors	.	...	...	9
Pumps removed and town water laid on	...	...	...	7
Domestic workrooms inspected	...	...	...	7
Unwholesome premises lime-washed	...	...	...	36
Workrooms ventilated	...	...	..	5
Workshops and workrooms lime-washed	...	...	...	7
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	4
Offensive pig-sties lime-washed	...	...	...	20
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	59
Nuisances from leaking gas-pipes	..	...	...	3
Nuisances from overcrowding	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	3
Old premises condemned and pulled down	...	...	...	4
Leaking roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	8
Privies condemned and vaults cleared and filled up...	...	...	...	16
				<hr/> 2432 <hr/>

R. H. WALDEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

